

Message Text

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21

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STRE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02 /126 W

----- 045436

R 281540Z APR 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 3229

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATION: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

REF: 75 STATE 9365

1. SUMMARY: IN BILATERAL TOPRICAL PRODUCTS (TP)
CONSULTATION WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (T&T), MTN
DEL, US MTN DEL ELBAORATED ON ITS MARCH 1 OFFER TO
NEGOTIATE MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS IN TP GROUP AND
PRESENTED T&T DEL WITH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP
NEGOTIATIONS US IS SEEKING FROM TGT. T&T DEL
EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN RECEIVING US LIST OF
REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH
SPECIFIC NATURE OF US REQUEST. T&T DEL WILL DISCUSS
US OFER AND REQUEST WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, AND WILL
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CONSULT FURTHER WHEN HE RETURNS GENEVA FROM UNCTAD IV.

END SUMMARY

2. ELABORATION OF US TP OFFER - US MTN DEL (GRAEF ET AL) HELD BILATERAL CONSULTATION WITH T&T MTN DEL (CUMBERBATCH) APRIL 23 IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT ROUND OF BILATERAL TP CONSULTATIONS TO ELABORATE ON US TP OFFER AND PRESENT US REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC LDC CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP NEGOTIATIONS. US MTN DEL NOTED THAT OF FOURTEEN PRODUCTS ON T&T'S TP REQUEST LIST TO THE US, NINE WERE INCLUDED IN THE US TP GLOBAL OFFER WITH A 1974 TRADE VALUE OF ABOUT \$1.7 MILLION. US DEL INDICATED IT WAS OFFERING MFN TARIFF REDUCTIONS WHICH THE US INTENDS TO BIND. BINDING, HOWEVER RELATES TO IMPLEMENTATION, A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE US HAD NO POSITION AT THIS BEGINNING STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. US DEL INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL PRODUCTS ON ITS OFFER LIST WHICH, BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC SENSITIVITIES, MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE NEEDED IN ORDER FOR THE US TO BIND DUTY REDUCTIONS TO ZERO.

3. T&T'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO US TP OFFER - T&T DEL HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT ON US TP OFFER, BUT HE EXPECTED TO CONSULT WITH RESPONSIBLE GOVT OFFICIALS IN NAIROBI DURING UNCTAD IV. HE NOTED THAT BITTERS WAS THE PRINCIPAL ITEM OF TRADE INTEREST TO T&T ON THE US OFFER LIST. HE EXPLAINED THAT T&T WAS NOT INITIALLY PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE OTHER EIGHT PRODUCTS ON ITS REQUEST LIST WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE US OFFER. HE STATED THAT THE US OFFER LOST MUCH OF ITS ATTRACTIVENESS WHEN IT EXCLUDED SEVERAL KEY PRODUCTS IN WHICH JAMAICA WAS INTERESTED -- RUM AND CITRUS. HE RENEWED T&T'S INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING BETTER ACCESS FOR RUM IN THE US MARKET DURING THE MTN, NOTING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITIES WITH THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION. US DEL POINTED OUT THE T&T'S EXPORTS TO US OF BITTERS WERE MANY TIMES GREATER THAN THEIR RUM EXPORTS (NOTING THAT US RUM PRODUCTION WAS VERY LARGE) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE T&T CITRUS PRODUCTION APPEARED TO BE DECLINING. US DEL THEREFORE PUZZLED BY T&T'S REACTION THAT ITEMS OF SUBSTANTIAL TRADE INTEREST TO T&T WERE NOT INCLUDED IN US OFFER.

4. PRESENTATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS US IS SEEKING

FROM T&T - US DEL PRESENTED T&T DEL WITH CONFI-

DENTIAL NEGOTIATING LIST PREPARED BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF FOUR PRODUCTS ON WHICH US IS SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS OF MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS FROM T&T (LIST FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL). US DEL NOTED THAT IN KEEPING WITH PARA 5 OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION IT WAS NOT SEEKING FULLY RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS, HENCE THE TRADE VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN US OFFER.

5. T&T DEL INITIAL RESPONSE TO US REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS - (PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THE T&T DEL HAD EXPRESSED IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH US MTN DELS A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN LEARNING SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS THAT US WOULD BE SEEKING FROM T&T IN TP NEGOTIATIONS.) DURING CONSULTATIONS, T&T DEL STATED HE BELIEVED HE HAD PERSUADED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT NON-RECIPROCITY DID NOT MEAN THAT LDCS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE NO CONCESSIONS WHATSOEVER DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE HAD ADVISED HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE PATIENT, AND THAT EVENTUALLY THEY WOULD OBTAIN SOMETHING FROM THE NEGOTIATION, IF THEY WOULD MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS IN RETURN. HE NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE LARGE REDUCTIONS ON SIGNIFICANT ITEMS OF TRADE INTEREST TO THEM, SO THE GOTT COULD SHOW ITS DOMESTIC PRODUCERS THAT IT HAD OBTAINED IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS. T&T DEL SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE US WAS ASKING FOR MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS, AS HE HAD THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS ADHERENCE TO GENERAL CODES, BINDINGS, ETC., MIGHT BE AN ADEQUATE DEGREE OF RECIPROCITY. HE NOTED THAT THE GOTT WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE REQUEST CAREFULLY, SINCE THERE WERE OTHER DC SUPPLIERS OF THE REQUESTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTS, AND ONLY THE US WAS ASKING FOR SPECIFIC CONCESSIONS. HE NOTED THAT NO ACP COUNTRIES HAD SENT A TP REQUEST LIST TO THE EC, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN CONSIDERING DOING SO. T&T DEL WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER US WOULD REQUEST PAYMENT FROM ALL COUNTRIES BENEFITING FROM CONCESSIONS, OR ONLY FROM THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS, AND IF CONCESSIONS WOULD BE WITHHELD IF CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING.

6. US DEL SAID THAT CONTRIBUTIONS WERE EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME RELATION TO THE TOTAL TRADE VALUE OF THE US OFFER TO EACH COUNTRY. AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE WOULD BE THOSE PRODUCTS ON WHICH BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES WERE THE PRINCIPAL OR

SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIERS.

US DEL EMPHASIZED THAT US LIST OF REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS WAS NOT A SHOPPING LIST, BUT THAT US DEL AREALIZED THAT WE WERE INVOLVED IN A NEGOTIATION. US DEL HOPED THATY WOULD EVALUATE OUR REQUEST LIST AND OFFER LIST AND CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. T&T DEL AGREED ON THIS PROCEDURE, AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE US OFFER AND REQUEST AND WOULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS, PRESUMABLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM UNCTAD IV IN NAIROBI.

7. COMMENT: T&T MTN DEL APPEARS PERSONALLY CONVINCED OF THE ADVISABILITY OF T&T OFFERING SOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TP NEGOTIATIONS. WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT HE WILL SUCCEED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MFN, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, TARIFF CONCESSIONS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MTNGE03229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760162-0882
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaajbo.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 9365
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATION: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TAGS: ETRD, TD, US, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006